

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P R 281713Z OCT 75
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4628
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T PARIS 27921

EXDIS

DEPT FOR PM (VEST, NOSENZO) OES (KRATZER) PASS ACDA
(VAN DOREN) AND ERDA (SIEVERING)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TECH, FR
SUBJECT: NUCLEAR EXPORTERS CONFERENCE

SUMMARY: FRENCH SEE LITTLE NEED FOR THE NUCLEAR EXPOR-
TERS CONFERENCE TO DEVELOP A LEGAL DETAILED INTER-
GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT, PREFERRING INSTEAD A SET OF
COMMON GUIDELINES BACKED BY A GENERAL DIPLOMATIC UNDER-
STANDING. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING THE EVENING OF OCT 27, QUAI SCIENCE DIRECTOR
DE NAZELLE AND CEA SAFEGUARDS ADVISER PETIT TO-
GETHER INITIATED A CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF ON
THE NUCLEAR EXPORTERS CONFERENCE. THE NEXT MEETING,
THEY SAID, WAS NOW SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 3 AND 4.
PETIT WAS UNHAPPY WITH SPENDING TWO DAYS IN LONDON.
DE NAZELLE AGREED, ADDING HIS IRRITATION,
"WHY SUCH A HURRY?"

2. BOTH FELT THE TIME WAS RIPE FOR DEVELOPING
COMMON GUIDELINES ON NUCLEAR EXPORTS. WHEN EMBOFF
ASKED IF THE NOVEMBER MEETING WOULD ALSO SET UP A
DRAFTING GROUP, THEY STRESSED THAT THERE WAS LITTLE
NEED FOR A DETAILED WRITTEN AGREEMENT ON CONTROLLING
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NUCLEAR EXPORTS. AN AGREEMENT ON GUIDELINES WOULD

SUFFICE. THE IMPORTANT THING WAS THAT NUCLEAR EXPORTING NATIONS HAD A CONCERTED APPROACH BASED ON A GENERAL UNDERSTANDING AND A SENSE OF TRUST DEVELOPED AT THE DIPLOMATIC LEVEL. DE NAZELLE SAID THAT THE GERMANS HAD TOLD THE FRENCH THEY WOULD CONSIDER THEMSELVES OBLIGED TO ACT ACCORDING TO THE GUIDELINES WHENEVER FINALIZED, WHETHER A DETAILED AGREEMENT FOLLOWS OR NOT.

3. SEPARATELY, PETIT EXPLAINED THAT THE SUCCESS OF THE NUCLEAR EXPORTERS CONFERENCE DEPENDED ON THE SHARED RELIANCE, THAT NO EXPORTER WOULD BE DISADVANTAGED BY INSISTING ON ADEQUATE SAFEGUARDS. A LAWYER, HE INSISTED THAT A LEGAL TEXT IS ALWAYS SUBJECT TO INTERPRETATION. HE CONCLUDED HIS ARGUMENT BY SAYING THAT THE POTENTIAL NUCLEAR EXPORTERS NOT PARTICIPATING IN THE CONFERENCE LIKE ITALY AND SWEDEN WOULD FIND IT EASIER TO COMPLY WITH GENERAL GUIDELINES THAN WITH A DETAILED TEXT TO WHICH THEY HAD NOT CONTRIBUTED.

4. COMMENT: AS WE ARE UNAWARE OF THE CURRENT STATE OF PLAY, THE CONVERSATION IS GIVEN IN DETAIL AND WITHOUT INTERPRETATION. IF THE FRENCH POSTURE POSES PROBLEMS, WE SUGGEST THE DEPT CONTACT THEM BEFORE THE MEETING EITHER IN LONDON OR THROUGH THE EMBASSY.
RUSH

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR ENERGY, PLANNING MEETINGS, EXPORTERS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PARIS27921
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750373-0864
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751014/aaaaamek.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <09 OCT 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NUCLEAR EXPORTERS CONFERENCE SUMMARY: FRENCH SEE LITTLE NEED FOR THE NUCLEAR EXPOR-
TAGS: TECH, FR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006